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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/573,483	02/13/2007	Hiroomi Kuwahara (Deceased)	KAS.074	3149
48234	7590	02/25/2009	EXAMINER	
MEREK, BLACKMON & VOORHEES, LLC			REIS, RYAN ALEXANDER	
673 S. WASHINGTON ST			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			3752	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/25/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/573,483	Applicant(s) KUWAHARA (DECEASED) ET AL.
	Examiner RYAN REIS	Art Unit 3752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 4-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 4-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. In the amendment filed on 12/03/2008, applicant has cancelled claims 1-3 and added new claims 4-6. Therefore, claims 4-6 are now pending in the application and are addressed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 3,857,511 to Govindan (Govindan).

As to claim 4, Govindan discloses a spray gun having a paint jetting part (3) for jetting pressure paint in atomized state and air jetting means (b) for forming a covering air flow surrounding the periphery of atomized paint jetted from the paint jetting part, whereby the pressure paint is atomized by friction to air outside the paint jetting part, comprising: a body frame (2) having a length, a front end (at 3), a rear end (at 1), and an air intake (1) adjacent to the rear end for receiving compressed air; an air ventilation path (from 1 through 9 to b; see Figure 1) for flowing the compressed air from the air intake to the air jetting means; an air valve (4) adjacent to the rear end for opening and closing the air ventilation path, the air jetting means being mounted at the front end of

the body frame and having a ring-shaped nozzle (see Figure 2) having nozzle holes (at b and 16) arranged at a fixed pitch toward the circumferential direction of the ring-shaped nozzle, the nozzle holes receiving air from the air ventilation path and guiding the air to rotate around the center of the ring-shaped nozzle; the paint jetting part including a paint valve (10) mounted at the center of the ring-shaped nozzle, the paint valve extending forwardly from the front end of the body frame to a paint outlet (at 3); a lever operating member (5) mounted between the front end and the rear end of the body frame for human operation; and an interlocking means (see Figure 1) responsive to operation of the lever operating member for opening and closing both the air valve and the paint valve (operating member 5 opens and closes valves 4 and 10). Govindan does not disclose the paint outlet being positioned forward of the nozzle holes of the ring-shaped nozzle of the air jetting means.

However, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have made the paint outlet of Govindan forward of the nozzle holes of the air jetting means because applicant has not disclosed that placing the paint outlet forward of the air jetting nozzle holes provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would expect applicant's invention to work equally well with the paint outlet arranged in the location shown by Govindan.

As to claim 5, Govindan discloses a bar prehension part (handle of 2) extending along and rearward of the lever operating member and having a hollow cylindrical

member (see hollow portion in Figure 1) and a connecting member (at 1), the bar prehension part adapted to be grasped together with the lever operating member. Govindan does not disclose the paint being connected to the hollow cylindrical member.

However, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have made the paint feeding hose of Govindan connect through a hollow cylindrical portion of the bar prehension part because applicant has not disclosed that routing the paint through the bar prehension part provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would expect applicant's invention to work equally well with the paint flowing to spray gun from another entry point.

As to claim 6, Govindan discloses an air intake (1) for the air ventilation path, the air intake being positioned rearward of the bar prehension part (see Figure 1).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 4-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RYAN REIS whose telephone number is (571)270-5060. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 6:00pm EST.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Len Tran can be reached on (571) 272-1184. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/RR/
Examiner, Art Unit 3752
/Len Tran/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3752